

Trollers Gill – Lower Valley Crags

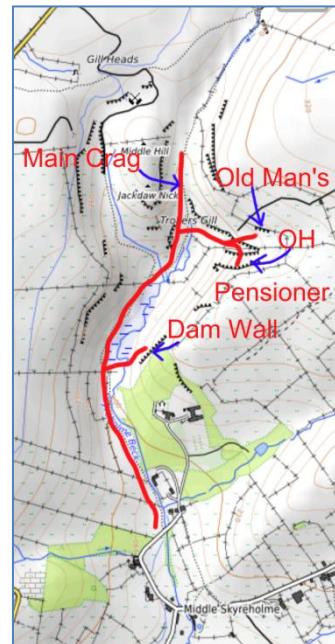
Character

Recent development has awakened interest in the small walls seen as one walks in to the main crag. These are providing short but interesting little climbs on rock that varies from good to indifferent though, where the latter is the case, it has usually been reinforced using resin. Despite their brevity the climbs are proving popular.



Access

The crags and climbs are described from left to right. From the usual parking follow the much used path past several man-eating gates to where it leaves the stream and climbs up to the old (but not obvious) dam. It contours around the upper valley and descends to the gate where one can cross the usually dry beck and enter the gorge or climb rightwards to the **Old Man's Crag**. There is a gap in the drystone wall below this crag that gives access to a new path that climbs to the obvious **Overhang Wall**.



Ian on When I'm Sixty Six at Pensioners Buttress

Trollers Gill - Overhang Buttress

The obvious wall with a marked overhang which can be seen over to the right on the approach to the main gorge. The routes are short, but there is some good rock and proximity to developed climbing areas means it is likely to become popular.

Access.

Follow the path besides the wall and below The Old Man's Crag. Pass through the gap in the wall and go up to the buttress.

Character

The rock is fairly shattered in its lower half but improves with height. It is probably advisable to wear a helmet particularly when belaying.



Routes described from left to right

1/ The Annihilation Agenda 10m 6a+/6b

Shattered wall to break/ledge. Steep groove above (care with big blocks) to LO on R. OK Route. The name suggests the character FA Mark Radtke, Gil Peel.

2/ Culpable and Complicit 10m 5c/6a

Crusty wall climbing leads to fused rock and a LO. Nice in its upper bit. FA Mark Radtke, Gil Peel.

3/ Central Pillar 10m 6a

Direct over the lower bulges and up the grooved arête to a lower-off on the upper nose.

Dave Musgrove, Gary Milner, Gil Peel 2025

4/ Lilliput 10m 6a+

Short bulging lower wall direct to upper groove.
Dave Musgrove, Gary Milner, Gil Peel 2025

Annihilation Mix and Swift but Not Sure

5/ **Giliver's Travels** 10m 6a+

Climb up leftwards to the obvious groove line of the crag. Good rock in the upper half.
FA Gil Peel, Mark Radtke.

6/ **Swift but Not Sure** 10m 6a+/b

From the original start of *Giliver's Travels* swing right onto steep arête on left edge of main roof. Intimidating but easier than it looks.

Gil Peel, Dave Musgrove, 2025

7/ **Team Effort** 10m 6b

A gymnastic start over the roof on the right-hand side of the Buttress leads to an easier finish. Treat the finishing holds gently.

FA Dave Musgrove, Gary Milner, Gil Peel 12.8.2025

Trollers Gill - Pensioners Buttress

A small buttress which is partially hidden by trees to the right of the obvious overhanging crag which can be seen over to the right on the approach to the main gorge. The routes are short, but a pleasant crag bottom and nice aspect make it worth a visit. In the summer it gets the sun from about 1.00pm

Access.

Approach as for Old Mans Crag. Pass through the wall via the obvious sheep's gate. Contour beneath the overhanging crag to gain the buttress about 30m further on.

Character

The rock is fairly shattered. Routes have been cleaned as well as possible and glue has been used to stabilise holds on several. The routes should settle down over time, but in the meantime be prepared for the odd snappy hold. It is advisable to wear a helmet particularly when belaying. Routes are described from left to right.

0/ **Breaking Gate** 10m 6c

The left most route on the buttress. A burly start passing two bolts and having faith in some glued up jugs, leads to a rising traverse up and right past two more bolts over some friable rock, to gain the belay on *Celebration Day*. Pumpy. Worth having a screwgate on the third bolt to stop the gate opening. MR, JH



Mark Radtke on his own route - The Gil Pill

1/ **Celebration Day** 10m 6c *

A couple of hard pulls gain a break and good holds at the third bolt. Easier climbing on shattered rock leads to the LO. Mark Radtke

2/ **Trombones** 10m 6c *

The steep flaky shallow groove line provides steep and sustained climbing. Dave Musgrove

3/ **Nearly Retired** 10m 6a

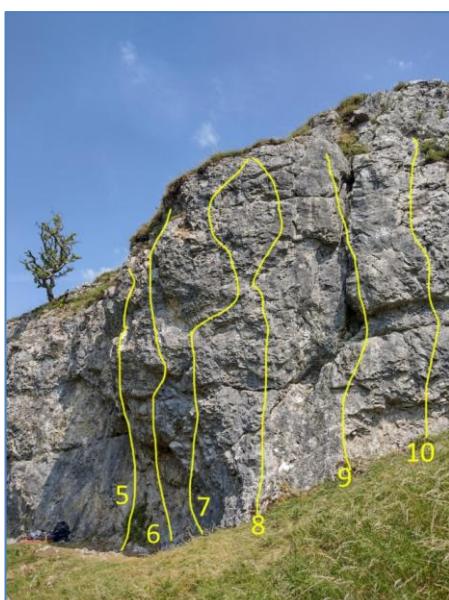
Pleasant climbing up the wall to the right. Mark Radtke

4/ **Gemini** 10m 6a+ *

A direct line to the shared lower-off. Dave Musgrove

5/ **I'm now two inches shorter** 10m 6a

Steep climbing utilising some monster jugs. Enjoyable, if a little short. Mark Radtke



6/ Shy and Retiring 10m 6c+ *

Start below the widest part of the bulge. From twin undercuts gain the break. Use a good hold and reach up slightly right to a crimp. Now go left to gain the shallow groove by a couple of tricky pulls. Easy climbing remains. Paul Clarke

The next two routes share a common LO.

7/ The Gil Pill 10m 6c+ *

Short but surprisingly sustained. A steady but steep start leads to techy climbing all the way. Mark Radtke

8/ When I'm Sixty Six 10m 6b/+ *

The nice wall to the right provides some good moves. Mark Radtke

9/ Definitely Retired 9m 5+

The awkward crack is harder than it looks. Mark Radtke

10/ Looks Can Be Deceptive 9m 6a

A tricky pull gains better holds and much easier climbing. Difficult to grade. Gary Milner

Links

Jagged Little Pill 10m 6c/+

Climb *The Gil Pill* to the good hold below the second bolt then go left to join *Shy and Retiring*. Paul Clarke

Yearly Checkup 10m7a

Climb the first two bolts on *Shy and Retiring* and move right into *The Gil Pill*. Alex Siddle

Superannuation 10m 6c+

Start at the foot of the crack and move up and leftwards to the shared side-pull in the middle of the wall. Go horizontally left to pass around the bulging rib to the groove of *Shy and Retiring*. Lower-off to the left. Paul Clarke

Trollers Gill – Dam Wall

A small buttress which is partially hidden by trees just past the old dam wall on the approach to Trollers Gill from Percival Hall. In the shade all day.

Access.

Approach from Parcival Hall. After a rising section of the path, walk across the top of the dam wall by a good path that is not obvious if obscured by bracken in the summer months. Descend to the stream and make an easy crossing. The crag is about a hundred metres upstream on the right. 15 minutes from the parking.

Character

Steep bouldery type routes on variable quality rock that is around 8m in length. First climbed by Mark Radtke, Dave Musgrove, Dillon Archer Gil Peel, and Gary Milner - July 2025.

1/ Guy Gibson 9m 5c

The long shallow groove and undercut arête on the left-hand side of the Buttress.

Dave Musgrove, Gil Peel 25/Jul/2025.

2/ Dambuster 9m 5c

Climb a blunt rib to a slabby corner then surmount the overhangs on good holds trending right to the lower off above *Bouncing Bombs*.

Dave Musgrove, Gary Milner, Dave Turnbull 18/Jul/2025.

3/ Bouncing Bombs 9m 6b *

Start below a prominent spike and climb over it to a ledge. The right edge of the steep slab is then followed on crimps and poor side-pulls to the overlap and an easier finish on big holds.

Gary Milner, Dave Musgrove 18/Jul/2025.

Note: At the time of writing the LO on the next two routes is currently causing rope drag. One of the bolts could do with repositioning to alleviate.

4/ I'll be Damned 9m 6b+

A steady start and finish is interrupted by a reachy crux between the 2nd and 3rd bolts. Same LO as route number 5.

5/ Damned Land Grabbers 9m 6b+/c

The central line packs a lot in for its short length. Variable quality rock gives this one an adventurous feel, but it is worthwhile. A steep start passing two bolts leads to a third at the roof. An awkward shuffle left below the roof gains a good jug above and a fourth bolt. The slabby headwall leads to a lower off on the summit.

6/ Damn and Blast 9m 6b/7a *

A good route on solid rock although difficult to grade as it is very height dependant. Climb easily to the undercut bulge where an unobvious crack presents two crimps for the easiest way of surmounting it. Good jugs above. Only just to the left a more obvious crack has a good hold. If you can reach the jugs with feet still below the bulge it is steady. If not, it's tough. 3 bolts to a lower off shared with the next route.

7/ Damn Right 9m 4

A pleasant little warm up following the right edge of the buttress over good rock. Lower off shared with the previous route.

8/ Barns Wallace 11m 6b+

A right to left rising traverse along the diagonal break finishing at the Bouncing Bombs lower off.